

Message Text

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71

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 COME-00 DOTE-00 AGR-20 AID-20

SS-15 NSC-10 L-03 RSC-01 RSR-01 /093 W

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P 091904 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5810

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MEXICO 3205

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, MX

SUBJECT: RETURN OF US RAIL CARS

REF: A. STATE 87259 B. STATE 85911 C. AMOTT- O'CONNOR

TELCON 7 MAY 73.

1. DIRECTOR GENERAL FNM VICTOR MANUEL VILLASENOR RESIGNED MAY 7, AND PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA APPOINTED AS HIS SUCCESSOR LUIS GOMEZ, LONG- TIME EMPLOYEE OF FNM AND INFLUENTIAL LEADER OF RAILROAD UNION. IN RESIGNING VILLASENOR SAID THAT ADVANCING YEARS LIMIT THE ENERGY THAT HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO PUT INTO HIS JOB. CONASUPO OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY TCO THAT CHANGE SHOULD STRENGTHEN FNM ADMINISTRATION.

2. FNM TRAFFIC MANAGER, WHO ATTENDED AAR MEETING HOUSTON MAY 7, REPORTED THAT AAR AGREED TO GIVE FNM ADDITIONAL THREE WEEKS TO COMPLY WITH APRIL 26 AGREEMENT AND WOULD MONITOR SITUATION AS IT DEVELOPS DURING THIS PERIOD. HE DENIED HAVING SAID AT MEETING THAT US CARS IN MEXICO TOTAL 10,000, STATING THAT FNM FIGURES AGREE WITH AAR FIGURE OF 6,711. FNM WILL FURNISH EMBASSY WITH DAILY REPORT OF CAR ENTRIES AND RETURNS FOR TRANSMITTAL TO WASHINGTON AUTHORITIES. FIRST SUCH REPORTS FOLLOWS:

	ENTRIES	RETURNS
MAY 4	263	342
MAY 5	175	116
MAY 6	84	171

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3. TRAFFIC MANAGER ALSO SAID THAT NEW FNM DIRECTOR WILL VIGOROUSLY PURSUE MEASURES OUTLINED PARAS 4 AND 7 MEXICO 3084. IN ADDITION ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH MAJOR STEEL PRODUCERS, WHO PN HAD TRIED TO REFLECT THE REALITY OF MUTUAL SUSPICION AND HISTORICAL ANTAGONISM BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES BY DEVISING A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. THE LATTER, BASED ON BOTH SIDES' VITAL INTERESTS AND CONCERNS, ENVISIONED BALANCED, RECIPROCAL CONCESSIONS IN CONSEQUITIVE PHASES. AS AN EXAMPLE OF A GVN CONCESSION THERE WAS TO BE NO RESTRICTION ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE REPRESENTATIVE BODY CHOSEN THROUGH NATIONAL ELECTIONS.

3. IN A POINT- BY- POINT CRITIQUE OF THE PRG PROPOSALS VIEN REBUTTED FAMILIAR PRG ACCUSATIONS. HE HELD THAT THE COMMUNIST SIDE STILL HELD AND REFUSED TO RELEASE 26,800 RVNAF POW'S AND 67,000 GVN CIVILIANS. ON RESTORING DEMOCRATIC FREEDOMS, VIEN SAID THAT GVN WAR-TIME RESTRICTIONS WERE NO HARSHER THAN THOSE FRENCH LAW IMPOSED IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES, WHILE PRG OUTRAGES AGAINST ICCS PERSONNEL WELL- ILLUSTRATED THEIR CONCEPT OF PERSONAL OIBERTY.

4. IN CONSLUSION HIEU SAID " WE HAVEN' T TRUST IN EACH OTHER, AND EACH SIDE IS ON GUARD TO PARRY A POSSIBLE ATTACK BY THE OTHER." THIS MADE A GENERAL CEASE- FIRE UNATTAINABLE; PRG INSISTENCE ON A CEASE- FIRE AS A PRE-CONDITION WAS PARALYZING THE TALKS. URGING DISCUSSION OF THE GVN PLAN, VIEN SUGGESTED SECRET TALKS AND THE FORMATION OF COMMITTEES TO HOLD IN DEPTH DISCUSSION OF SPECIFIC ISSUES.

5. HIEU, CHIEF PRG DELEGATE, LED OFF WITH AN ATTACK ON GVN BEHAVIOR, ACCUSING IT OF SABOTAGING THE PEACE, FALSELY LISTING ONLY 5, 081 CIVILIAN DETAINEES TO BE RELEASED, AND HAVING MADE ENTIRELY " GRATUITOUS" ELECTION PROPOSALS. THE GVN AIMED AT PUTTING OFF NATIONAL ELECTIONS FOREVER, WHILE ENGAGING IN A LOCAL ELECTIONS " FARCE" WHOLLY CONTRARY TO THE AGREEMENT. THE US, HIEU ALLEGED, PROMOTED GVN VIOLATIONS OF THE CEASE- FIRE AND HAE ITSELF VIOLATED NEARLY ALL CLAUSES OF THE AGREEMENT. HE DENOUNCED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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" IMPUDENCE" AND " INSOLENT CHALLENGE" OF PRESIDENT NIXON' S " THREAT" TO RENEW WARFARE AGAINST THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE.

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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